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BRITISH PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

[We are permitted to extract the following remarks from a letter written by Dr. E. Barlow, who was president of the above-named association at its last anniversary, to Dr. Warren, of Boston, to which we desire particularly to direct the attention of the reader.]

"I lament that you could not have been present at the late anniversary meeting of our 'Provincial Medical and Surgical Association,' which took place in Bath last week under my presidency. Nothing can be conceived more highly interesting than this annual reunion of the Provincial Medical Faculty of this kingdom, nor more likely to lead to important and most beneficial results. After a few months of deliberation this association was instituted at Worcester in 1832, and it has since held six anniversary meetings successively in Bristol, Birmingham, Oxford, Manchester, Cheltenham and Bath. We began with about 150 members, derived from a limited district; we now embrace the whole kingdom, with upwards of 1200 members enrolled. For more effective co-operation than one annual migratory meeting would admit, we are forming subordinate District Branches, members reuniting themselves in branches according as their localities and personal convenience direct, and holding whatever local meetings their zeal and diligence may respectively require. We assemble next year at Liverpool; our regular anniversary day is the 19th of July; but in order to ensure the convenience of holding our meetings on fixed days of the week, our rule is to assemble on the 18th and 19th of July when the latter day falls on a Thursday, as it did this year, or on the first Wednesday and Thursday after the 19th, as will be the case next year. This rule enables all concerned to foreknow the exact time at which meetings will be held.

"Is it too much to hope that in this age of rapid navigation and steamboat flight, some of our United States brethren may be tempted to cross the Atlantic for the purpose of honoring us with their presence at these our national medical conventions, and personally receiving from us assurance of the high esteem in which we hold them? May I indulge the expectation that at our next reunion at Liverpool, some representatives of the U. S. Medical Faculty may find their way to us, and allow us to evince towards them the cordial respect and regard which we unfeignedly feel? If you could hold out any such hope, it would be an incentive to our energies of the most inspiriting and exhilarating

kind. Pray think favorably of this suggestion, and diffuse it as widely as you can."

[For the purpose of exhibiting still further the objects of this association, as well as some arguments which are equally in favor of a similar one in this country, we present part of the address of the same gentleman on taking the chair, as President elect for the year, at the late anniversary at Bath. Extracts from the doings of the association may hereafter be copied.]

"Gentlemen,—In entering on the office which your kindness has assigned to me, my first agreeable duty is to bid you all heartily welcome to this our ancient city, which was never more signally honored than it is on the present occasion. Cultivated talent and moral worth, especially when combined, must ever receive the respect and regard of all who are capable of appreciating them. For both, our revered profession has always been eminent; and when they who, even amongst its members, distinguish themselves by pressing forward in the career of humane and enlightened endeavor, assemble in such numbers as I rejoice to see now around me, for the purpose of cultivating still further their divine art, and promoting the best interests of humanity, their presence must confer honor on any place which is graced by such an assemblage. It is not my design, gentlemen, to trespass long on your time or attention, in the address from the chair, with which the customs of our association require me to open the present session. To do so would be an abuse of the privilege which my present situation confers, and prove only an irksome delay of the far more interesting matter which will be speedily submitted to your consideration. In each successive year some change takes place in the circumstances under which your President addresses you. Heretofore, and until the designs for which the association was instituted had become generally understood, it was the duty of your Presidents, in their respective discourses, to dwell on those designs and the evidences of their fulfilment, so as to make their nature, scope, tendency and progressive realization familiar to all concerned. Happily this is no longer needed—for the years that have elapsed since we first assembled to found this association, and the wide diffusion of our Reports and Transactions, have made these designs fully known; while extension of the association, which in respect both of numbers and space, has advanced with a rapidity which I may say is unexampled —furnishes assurance the most unequivocal of their being justly appreciated. Were further proof of this needed, the assemblage which I now see before me, congregated from almost every part of the kingdom, must suffice to carry conviction to the most sceptical. And here, gentlemen, I will remark, that so long as we display such evidence of zealous and harmonious co-operation, we may be content to pursue the direct and even tenor of our way, whatever the opposition we may chance to encounter; and, cheered by the consciousness that, so far as our abilities extend, we are pursuing laudable objects from pure motives, may safely disregard objections, such as only ignorance or miscon-

ceptions of our designs could urge against us. Practical details and statistical elucidations you will have abundantly in the ulterior proceedings of the present meeting; on all such it would be vain and idle for me to dwell. I prefer, therefore, during the few moments to which my present trespass shall be limited, to direct your attention to those considerations which admit not of statistical exposition, yet which are not the less valuable from requiring to be addressed rather to the mind's eye than to our actual perceptions. The main objects for which we are associated, as stated in our fundamental constitution, are, the advancement of medical science—and the maintenance of the honor and respectability of the profession. These objects are intimately connected; for unless science be diligently and effectively cultivated, the honor and respectability of the profession would rest on a very slight foundation; and unless the honor and respectability were otherwise maintained, on the high ground of moral integrity and liberal sentiment, no advance in science could vindicate its claim to that high estimation in which it has through ages been held, and which, I trust, it will ever even with sensitive jealousy preserve. The feelings of the sensitive Roman, who would not that his wife should be even suspected of error, are to be commended; and with similar feelings it should be our care so to conduct the proceedings of our association, that not even the suspicion of selfish or sinister designs should attach to us. To the cultivation of medical science our endeavors have been hitherto directed, with an earnestness and steadiness of which it becomes me not here to speak. However little these endeavors may have hitherto produced, they have at least been exerted with a zeal worthy of the cause which called them forth. My present purpose, however, is not to dilate on these efforts or their fruits, but to impress on you all that they who would judge of the value of our association, even by the efforts already made, or the products which have resulted from them, would form but a very imperfect estimate of the benefits which our association is conferring, and which it cannot fail eventually to realize. It has been asked, and in a depreciating tone and unfriendly spirit, what have we done? The very question conveys to me the conviction that the party proposing it has no adequate conception of the subject on which he affects to seek information. No one really imbued with the love of science or the spirit of truth would even form the conception of judging us by so crude and inadequate a test. It is, no doubt, true that fruits should be the proof by which modes of cultivation should be judged; but surely not till time be given for seeds to germinate and plants to fructify. In our cultivation of medical science, it surely cannot be barren of fruits when upwards of one thousand energetic members of a liberal and enlightened profession are incited by the inspiriting stimulus, which this association supplies, to exert their best faculties and most earnest efforts for investigating those truths of nature which it has ever been the object and aim of our profession to explore. In the activity thus aroused, there is an ample assurance that the energies so called forth will not be unprofitable—that to the seed thus sown may we look with full confidence for a rich and abundant harvest. I care not, gentlemen, how slowly this harvest

advances; it being enough to satisfy me that it is advancing. I am not impatient for brilliant discoveries, such as the history of science has shown to occur only at intervals few and far between. Science is ever of slow advance, if this is to be judged by the sudden bounds by which consummate genius starts a-head of contemporary talent, marking epochs in the history of the science. But it is ever steadily progressive, if we note the slow, but sure—the humble, unpretending, but diligent and unwearied labor with which its ordinary votaries endeavor to extend it. Among these humble laborers do we class ourselves; with the merit attaching to such labor we will be content, and on the result of such labor are we satisfied to rely. Should it fall within the inscrutable designs of Providence that some master mind should spring up amongst us, some heaven-born genius destined to achieve the performances and equal the eminence of a Newton or a Harvey, we shall gratefully hail the distinction, assuming only the humble merit of having used our best endeavor to incite and cherish such transcendant talent. But, gentlemen, in the ordinary pursuit of our objects we look not for such results, and on the diligent exercise of ordinary talents are we content to rest our claims for commendation, encouragement and support. I am led to submit these views to you, gentlemen, believing them to be those of truth and sober reason; for while I would deprecate all extravagant anticipations and vain boastings, I conceive it essential to the steady progress of our combined exertions that we neither undervalue what we have done, nor form an incorrect estimate of what our conjoined labors are capable of effecting. On the second head of my present address, that, namely, which relates to the maintenance of the honor and respectability of the profession, I shall be very brief—for this honor and respectability must ever flow, not from self-elating pretensions or arrogant claim to consideration, but from the professional skill and moral worth of the individual members. As the aggregate of parts constitutes the whole, so must the maintenance of honor and respectability by each individual member of our association ensure beyond the possibility of failure the continuance of these long-enjoyed attributes to the collective body; and when I consider the high moral qualities which the members of our body on all occasions display, the talents they evince and the zeal they manifest, to all of which even the brief records of our association already bear ample testimony, I can entertain no fears of our ever, as a profession, descending from that high moral eminence, on which the opinions of the world, and the express declaration of several of the sagest and most acute observers of human nature, have for ages placed us. On the conduct of our individual members I confidently rely for preserving unsullied that reputation which the profession has hitherto maintained.

"So far as my judgment and feelings are capable of guiding me I would say—in cultivating medical science disdain not, through vain aspirations for profound theories or dazzling generalisations, that patient observation of nature and diligent collection of accurate facts, from which all true theory must be derived, all sound generalization deduced; and, in upholding the honor and respectability of the profession, let the

measures we collectively sanction ever bear the impress of that high-toned moral feeling which has so long distinguished our profession, and by which its true interests require us ever to abide."

DR. ALCOTT'S WORK ON VEGETABLE DIET.—No. V.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

In considering that part of Dr. Alcott's evidence which is derived from the testimony of correspondents, I inadvertently overlooked the letter of one of his witnesses, Dr. John M. Andrew, of Remsen, N. Y., owing to its not being inserted in its proper place in the work under review. Dr. Andrew seems to be a thorough-going vegetable eater. He has followed the "system" sixteen months, and has not lost a pound of flesh. He has devoted himself to "the assiduous cultivation of his mental faculties," and is withal a most valiant man in the field—of labor. "I cannot," says he, "find a man to vie with me in the field, with the scythe, the fork, or the axe. I do not want anything but potatoes and salt, and I can cut and put up four cords of wood in a day, with no very great exertion." All this is very strange! Dr. Andrew is certainly a doughty man, and very probably will prove a match for Dr. Alcott himself, who, it will be recollected, "can eat all the while, sleep all the while, talk all the while, fast all the while," &c. &c. Dr. Andrew followed the honorable business of farming until about four years ago, when, he says, he commenced his "professional course." His experience, as a physician, must have been about as extensive as that of Dr. Alcott's other correspondents.

Dr. Alcott, as I have already said, is quick to find evidence in authors which favors his own views, while he is extremely dull of apprehension when evidence of a different character presents itself. He is stone blind on one side. He can see the smallest objects on the left, while a church of the largest size cannot be perceived on the right. For instance, he quotes Dr. Beaumont with much approbation when he says that fat meats, butter and oily substances, spices, pepper, and stimulating condiments, retard digestion and injure the stomach; but he makes no allusion to those decisive experiments of Beaumont and others, which show, what almost any man may know from his own experience, that vegetable food, as a general rule, is more slowly and with more difficulty digested, than animal.

The last chapter in Dr. Alcott's book is a long and labored one, in which the author recounts, in a formal manner, the arguments which he has been able to collect, during a period of thirty years or so, in favor of his system. This chapter is not without instruction, though much of it is very queer, and all of it extravagant and ultra in its views. Its reasoning is so, so—a pretty good specimen of bran-bread logic. I beg the reader will examine it for himself.

Vegetable-eaters, says the Doctor, have excellent appetites, much better than other men; yet, they are not hungry. None but they know the pleasures of eating, and yet they can go without eating without any

self-denial or inconvenience. They have better digestion, better chyle, "better bones and more solid muscles," greater strength, sweeter breath, acuter senses, more lively minds, and clearer heads and handsomer faces, than other men. "Vegetable diet," says our author, "favors beauty of form and feature." "Beauty," he continues, "is as much within our control, as a race, as our conduct." "Beauty," adds he, in another place, "is exceedingly influential, and I look forward to a period in the world's history, when all will be comparatively well formed and beautiful." Now I know not what is Dr. Alcott's standard of beauty, but I have known some bran-bread gentlemen who looked no better than they should—indeed, no better than other men. I hope the doctor will not think me personal; but it is really too bad that a man with his gaunt and hungry look should taunt his betters with being unhandsome. It is not strange that a person who has lived on Dr. Alcott's plan should have an excellent appetite, and should be able "to eat even the coarsest viands with a high relish" (for what flesh-eater who, either from choice or necessity, has nearly starved himself, cannot say as much); but it is strange that a man of his taste should place before us such a skeleton set of fellows as his followers are known to be, and call them beautiful. I know it is said that there is no disputing of tastes, but such a taste as is here avowed I feel authorized to dispute.

"The pure vegetable-eaters," the doctor goes on to say, "seldom drink at all. The reason is, they are seldom thirsty." This, he contends, is an excellent argument in favor of his system. One of his authorities, indeed, maintains that man is not naturally a drinking animal. Dr. Alcott does not go so far as this; still he believes "that ninety-nine hundredths of the drink which is used does more harm than good." He has known several hard laborers "who were accustomed to sweat profusely and freely, and who yet hardly ever drank anything." How the system is supplied with fluid in such cases he cannot say, but instances of the kind prove, he contends, that drink is unnecessary. This is his logic—"If but one healthy man can dispense with drinking, others may." Drinking, he says, is a habit, and a very bad habit too. He not only denounces all stimulating drinks, but he seems to have had a falling out even with cold water—a word which is forever on the lips of his bran-bread associates, as though we could never have enough of it. I do not know on what ground he has taken up the cudgel against pure cold water—that harmless thing and emblem of purity—unless it is because it, too, is too stimulating. One of his authorities whom he quotes much, recommends *distilled* water as far preferable to any other. Such water, certainly, cannot be very stimulating, nor can it contain much spirit. Why, then, does not Dr. Alcott recommend it, or does the process of preparing it smack too much of the distillery?

Dr. Alcott is, of course, a great enemy to *fat*. Vegetable-eaters, he says, are never troubled with it. I believe him, so far as his own associates are concerned. They, certainly, were never accused of being fat. But it is not true that fat people are of course gross feeders. They are not so likely to be large eaters, or to eat as large a proportion of animal food, as other men. The fattest man I ever saw ate sparely,

and hardly tasted animal food at all. This is according to my experience, and according to the testimony of those with whom I am acquainted. Excessive corpulency should be regarded as disease, and independent, at least frequently, of diet. It is, generally, a misfortune and not a crime, and the man who has met with it should not be called hard names, or stigmatized, in not very elegant language, as "a huge mass of double-refined disease, pillaged from the foulest and filthiest of animals."

But I must bring my remarks to a close. I have not said all I intended, though I have exceeded the limits which I marked out for myself. I do not pretend to have said much that is new. An old argument, in my way of thinking, is as good as a new one, provided only it be a good one. I know that I have said nothing that will convince Dr. Alcott or any of his associates. I had almost said that it was not the nature of argument to convince those that are wedded to systems. Dr. Alcott is possessed of an enthusiastic mind, and, like others of his kind, is very apt to have his hobby, and to ride his hobbies very hard. I do not doubt the doctor is thoroughly honest in his opinions, but I do doubt if his mind is in a state to be convinced by reasons. As before remarked, he has a blind side; and not wilfully or affectedly, but unconsciously and really. I shall not change his opinions. He is at liberty to enjoy them; only let him allow me to enjoy mine. I part from him with perfect good feeling, wishing him health and long life, and everything desirable except proselytes.

Note 1.—I have said, in one of these papers, that, probably, one in six of the people in New England lives to be seventy years of age. It has been mentioned to me that this proportion was probably too large, but I am convinced that it is, on the contrary, too small, if we exclude the cities from the estimate. Bancroft says, in his history of the United States, that more than one in five, full four in nineteen, attain the age of seventy. In the immediate vicinity in which I live, even this proportion is too small. A friend of mine, curious in such matters, has made actual inquiry, and has found that of all those born in this neighborhood full one in four lives to the age of seventy. And yet, this town has not been *known* as peculiarly healthy. Probably Mr. Bancroft's estimate is not too large for all New England, provided we leave large towns out of the account.

Note 2.—A gentleman, one of the first medical men in New England, has mentioned to me, since I commenced these papers, that nearly all the very old persons with whom he has been acquainted, have been hearty eaters. I do not know how general this fact may be, but I believe that persons far advanced in life do not live on Dr. Alcott's plan. There is now living within one hundred rods of where I write, a man aged one hundred and one years and seven months. A week ago there was a man buried within five miles of my residence, aged one hundred and two years and three months. Both of these persons were, in their day, what may be called good livers. They ate flesh liberally, but temperately, generally three times a day, during the laboring part of

their lives. Both of them used cider moderately and some spirits. The first, who still survives, follows up the habits of his earlier life in respect to food and drink. The second did the same until within a few months previous to his death, when he dropped his usual small allowance of spirits. Judging from the lives of these men, is it possible that flesh is the poisonous thing which Dr. Alcott maintains?

EXANTHESIS ROSALIA V. PARISTHMITICA, TERMINATING IN ARTHRITIS RHEUMATISMUS V. ACUTUS ERYTHEMATODES.

BY T. GLYSON, M.D., NEWPORT, VERMONT.

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Rosalia, particularly v. P., has been quite prevalent in this section during the present season, and seems to have been unusually fatal. The case of which I am about to give the details, has been quite interesting to me, and I presume will be to others, more especially to that part of the profession who have not met with similar ones. I have before met with two cases of R. v. E., but not in connection with rosalia. Acute erythematic rheumatism is a rare disease; *i. e.*, not near as frequently met with as other varieties of rheumatism—and I report this case with the view of eliciting observations from others. There has been much written about the best method of treating this disease (acute rheumatism)—much discussion still exists—but not to the purpose. Actual experience and observation seem to be disregarded, and *theory alone the topic.*

Miss A. A. J., aged about 18 years, Oct. 17, complained of chills, heat, thirst, headache, and considerable difficulty of deglutition. Eyes watery and red; a fiery redness of the face; the inside of the mouth and fauces much inflamed; some hoarseness; dry, hacking cough; considerable thirst; a burning, throbbing pain in the fauces; a burning heat and dryness of the skin; a quick, hard and frequent pulse, numbering 135 a minute. The throat, on examination, presented a fiery red color; a brown fur upon the tongue; bowels costive, and some tenderness in the umbilical and hypogastric region, which on examination appeared tumefied. Some nausea, but had not vomited. A very disagreeable taste in the mouth. Some difficulty in moving the joints. On inquiry, I ascertained that she had suffered for about four months past from paramenia obstructionis v. suppressio, though not very severely.

Being well convinced of the nature of the affection, I put her upon the use of Dover's powder in doses of 10 grs., conjoined with 3 grs. of camph., to be repeated once in 4 hours. Pl. hyd. 3 grs. once in 6 hours. Emp. epis. of sufficient length to cover the forehead and temples, and use a decoction of rose leaves for a gargle.

Oct. 18.—Pain in the head less severe; less difficulty of deglutition; burning heat of the skin about as on the 17th; *no chills.* In other respects, also, the same. Give an emetic of ipecac. et t. antimony, which operated to advantage, producing a free perspiration. Give a

table-spoonful and a half of ol. ricini, and repeat once in 6 hours until it moves the bowels freely. A solution of alum and decoction of rose leaves for a gargle.

19.—There has been, since yesterday, less burning heat of the skin, and by turns a slight perspiration. No nausea. Physic had operated well. A slight pain remaining in the head; some vertigo and confusion, accompanied with faintness, on assuming an erect posture. Pulse 125. By turns there is some convulsive starting of the tendons, particularly about the time of going to sleep. In other respects, as on yesterday. Give powders composed of s. morph., grs. ¾; ipecac., grs. 3; prot. chlo. merc. grs. 4, and repeat once in 4 hours. Ordered two table-spoonfuls of ol. ricini to be given at nine in the evening, and, if no operation in the morning, to be repeated.

20.—Has rested well during the night. No nausea; some thirst; a free perspiration; no faintness or vertigo; pulse 120; pain in the head entirely gone; no lameness of the joints; no convulsive starting of the tendons. Physic operated well at about 6 in the morning. A heavy eruption made its appearance in the night, about the neck, shoulders and face. Continue the medicines, except ol. ricini.

21.—Equally as comfortable in every respect as yesterday. Pulse 119. Eruption gradually spreading over the back, chest and bowels. During the night had one movement of the bowels. Continue medicines.

22.—Pulse 115. Symptoms gradually improving. Eruption has begun to appear on the lower extremities. Continue medicines.

23.—In all respects improving. Eruption beginning to fade where it first appeared. Continue medicines.

24.—Rested well the fore part of the night. About 12, began to complain of pain, soreness, burning heat, and stiffness of the joints of the lower extremities, left upper extremity and neck. On my arrival, about 8 o'clock, A. M., I found some tumefaction of the several joints, severe pain, and a deep redness of the skin, in many places inclining to a deep purple hue; this was the case more particularly with the ankle and knee joints of the inferior extremities, and elbow, wrist and finger joints of the left superior extremity. She could not move any of them in the least. There was a good deal of thirst; a severe pain in the head; some pain in the bowels, in connection with diarrhœa; pulse 135, quick, and slightly corded. Eruption had entirely disappeared from the face, neck and shoulders, but upon the bowels and inferior extremities was of a dark red hue and in large patches. Considerable difficulty of breathing; a tendency to cough, but could not, owing to the severe distress such an effort produced. Gave a powder composed of opii, grs. 2; actæa racemosa, grs. 8; ipecac., prot. chlo. merc., ää grs. 3, to be repeated once an hour until free from pain, after that once in three hours. Use a liniment composed of aq. ammo., ol. olivæ, ää ℥ij.; t. opii, ℥i.; camph., ℥ss., to be rubbed on the joints and wherever there is any pain, soreness, and swelling (until entirely rubbed in dry), once in 2 or 3 hours. Apply a blister to the nape of the neck. Omitted the gargles, as the soreness of the mouth and fauces had considerably abated.

25.—To day she is pretty much free from pain when lying entirely still; sweat profusely during the night and the forenoon of to-day. Some ptyalism. Swelling of the joints of the extremities about the same, except the color is not so dark. Eruption beginning to fade away about the hips. Diarrhœa subsided. Continue medicines as on the 24th. It should be remarked here, that the weather for three days past has been cold and chilly, and very changeable—*atmosphere, very damp indeed.* Coat on the tongue of a deep brown color.

26.—Some considerable improvement. Tumefaction of joints considerably abated, and she can move them more freely. To-day the joints of the right superior extremity and shoulder are affected; pain in them is very severe, and the joints of the fingers of the right hand beginning to swell. Wrist joint a little tumefied. Bowels rather costive. Continue the medicines as yesterday, except the omission of actæa and prot. merc., for 12 grs. gm. guaic. Eruption is entirely gone.

27.—Pain, soreness and tumefaction abating in every joint, except the right upper extremity and shoulder, where they have increased some since yesterday. Pulse 120, and considerable softer. A free perspiration. During last night had three movements of the bowels. Powders produce some vertigo. Lessen the quantity of opium; in other respects continue medicines as on the 26th. Coat upon the tongue is beginning to come off.

28.—Pulse 100. Swelling of the joints gradually abating. No pain except in the head, and that attributed altogether to the noise in the house. As soon as the house was still, the pain disappeared. Some diarrhœa. Continue medicines as on the 27th.

29, 30 and 31.—Gradually improving. Secretions returning. Coat on the tongue mostly gone, and gaining in strength.

Nov. 1.—The joints are of the natural size. She is beginning to have some appetite. Pulse 75, moderately full. Ptyalism nearly gone. No tendency to cough. Continue medicines as before, except omit gm. guaic.

2.—In every respect better. Coat entirely gone from the tongue. Appetite improving fast. A little tenderness of the gums remaining. Bowels costive. To-day she began to menstruate, and is in no pain excepting what is present in connection with the return of the menses.

3.—She is able to sit up an hour at a time. Strength and appetite improving fast. Has rested well for the last two nights. Discontinue medicines.

6.—She is able to sit up most of the time. Has something of a diarrhœa, and is directed to take 25 drops of tinct. opii once in 4 hours until it gives relief.

9.—To-day she is quite well, is able to labor some, and has improved very fast since the 6th.

I have had, in the same house, another case of rosalia, terminating in enteritis typhodes, variety nervosa, which will be forwarded for publication as soon as I can get time to copy the same from my notes.

Newport, Vt., Nov. 15, 1838.

DR. MOTT'S AND DR. WARREN'S TRAVELS.

[The following extract from a letter by the European correspondent of the New York American, will be read with interest by the members of the profession of which the above-named gentlemen are distinguished ornaments.]

No arrival from the East has afforded so much pleasure to the Americans in Paris, as that of Dr. Mott, your townsman, one of the ablest of surgeons and worthiest of men. He has come back from a journey of five months, extended to Palestine, through countries of the highest interest to him in a professional, not less than an ordinary point of view. His health is unimpaired, though he underwent many and various hardships. He proceeded from Paris to Marseilles, thence to Malta, and thence to Greece, of which he made the tour in nearly all the principal islands; thence to Alexandria, Cairo, all the countries on each side, both deserts—the pyramids of Gaza, of Saccharia and Memphis, and the mountains of Mogattam; from Cairo to Damietto, &c. He returned through Egypt, by a different route, to Alexandria, thence to Syria and Asia Minor. After visiting Smyrna and some parts of the interior, to see, at least, the site of one of the Seven Churches of Asia, he embarked for the Dardanelles, landing to survey Cestos and Abydos, penetrated again into the interior of Asia Minor, and visited on his route ancient Troy, the plains, Alexandria Troad and Mount Ida. He afterwards repaired to Constantinople, and returned to Europe by the Bosphorus and Black Sea. I give you thus the principal points merely of his itineracy. I have learnt from him, in conversation, that he was brought into contact with some of the diseases peculiar to the countries which he visited, in a way to be enabled to form an opinion of them for himself. His opportunities of clinical inspection and inquiry furnished him with many new and curious facts; and his observations embrace not only the most formidable endemic maladies, but the condition and character of the surgery and medical schools in his route. I trust that he will communicate the whole mass of his notes to some of the American Medical and Surgical Journals. He seems to think that he found as much instruction in his professional capacity, as gratification in his quality of traveller. The American faculty will appreciate the harvest reaped through such regions by such a *confrere*.

Another American physician and surgeon, of like repute, in his division of our Union, Dr. Warren, of Boston, has already carried home from Europe a truly rich and most valuable addition to his great store of professional knowledge, by which, I am sure, our whole country will profit. I wish I could convey to you an adequate idea of the zeal and activity with which that excellent gentleman pursued his researches, and of the impression—as I have chanced to hear of it from good sources—which his merits of every kind left upon the minds of the ablest professors and practitioners of this capital, with most of whom he communed in all their walks and labors. I scarcely need say that the presence and studies in Europe, of American veterans in medical and surgical science and experience, like Dr. Mott and Dr. Warren, are of

inestimable advantage to the professional character and progress of our country. Not that "the art of healing," as practised here, is to be deemed superior or equal to our own in its best estate. These gentlemen and the heads of the British faculty would decide in the negative on that point.

Dr. Mott was allowed, by special and rare favor, to range with an American company through the harem of the Sultan at Constantinople; the ladies, however, being kept out of the walk of the strangers. He admired, greatly, the appearance, character and statesmanship of Mahmoud, who, I presume, may be placed above any other living monarch except Louis Phillippe. Modern Athens did not affect the doctor with extreme delight, nor did the "accommodations" in any part of Greece. The people live miserably. He was pleased with the deportment and exterior of King Otho and his queen (daughter of the Grand Duke of Oldenburg) both very young, and he witnessed at a court ball the elegance of Bavarian royalty, embellished by a picturesque variety of Greek costume among the ladies.

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BOSTON, DECEMBER 5, 1838.

BECK'S CHEMISTRY.

Dr. L. C. Beck, Professor of Chemistry in the University of New York, has published, or is about publishing, a manual, which Dr. Dunglison warmly recommends to students of chemistry. Dr. Beck's reputation is so well known, in connection with this science, in America, that his name alone is a warrant of the value of any production from his pen. In looking back upon the catalogue of scientific books which have appeared in the United States, the last few years, there is an obvious paucity in the department of chemistry. While natural history, surgery, theory and practice, and obstetrics, have kept pace with the progress of improvement, no one seems to have given that devoted attention to this subject which its importance demands. With the death of the illustrious Davy, the momentum which chemistry had acquired has certainly diminished, and the ardor that formerly characterized the cultivation of this useful study, from some unexplained cause, greatly subsided. In the schools of medicine, in which practical chemistry was a leading branch of knowledge a few years ago, it is now regarded only in a secondary light—exciting neither curiosity or surprise. Perhaps one cause of the decline of its former importance in medical education, arises from the incontrovertible fact, that the teachers themselves, as a general rule, are not the most brilliant men in the world. There are exceptions—but it will be admitted that too many chairs of chemical philosophy are occupied by very second-rate professors, who drag through the lecture season as though it were an irksome duty—burning a little hydrogen gas at one lecture, fulminating a grain of gold at another, &c., just to wear away time, and pocket the fee; and thus winds

up the term. Our medical schools require a thorough renovation in this respect. First, more science is necessary; secondly, more energy; and thirdly, the manifestation of a disposition to instruct the students—otherwise, the practitioners who are to be the successors of the present generation of physicians, will know very little of what has been considered of the first importance, viz., a thorough knowledge of pharmaceutic chemistry.

Wistar's Anatomy.—A new edition of this standard treatise is announced by Dr. Pancoast, of Philadelphia. The industry and perseverance of the profession of that city, are worthy of all praise. The old editions of Wistar's Anatomy are still valued—and their accuracy and conciseness of detail is a recommendation. Such revisions and additions as the present editor is qualified, by long experience, to give it, almost insure an extensive sale. It is surprising that some one does not remodel that excellent old system of anatomy by Andrew Fype, which in point of accuracy and minuteness, has never been surpassed by any demonstrator, in any age. It is so nearly out of print, that few copies, if any, can be had at the book-stores. The Edinburgh edition, of 1815, in three volumes, octavo, is the last that has come to our notice.

Lectures on the Diseases of the Eye.—Dr. Jeffries is now giving his annual course of practical lectures on the diseases of the eye, in the theatre of the Eye and Ear Infirmary, Green street, which are of a character not to be overlooked either by professional strangers who may be in the city, or by the students of the college. One of the principal advantages of these lectures arises from the fact, that each discourse is illustrated by an actual exhibition of the disease itself. This charity is now so firmly established, that there is always an opportunity of witnessing almost every possible variety of derangement in the organs of vision. Dr. Jeffries has not only great experience, but a thorough devotion to the interests of the institution, which is acknowledged in an enlightened community, where his services and his philanthropic labors are properly appreciated.

Asylum for poor Lunatics in Rhode Island.—Necessary as such an institution has been found to be in many of the other States, no effort has yet been made to provide for this particular class of unfortunates in Rhode Island. In Connecticut, one is evidently contemplated—a committee having been appointed by the last legislature to make investigation, which has produced a document of curious statistical import. Letters were addressed to each town, inquiring the number of insane and idiots entirely supported by the town; the number in part supported; those wholly dependent on charity; the number necessary to be confined, and the manner in which they were confined. Together with these efforts, the sheriffs of counties and the warden of the State Prison were addressed, to ascertain the number incarcerated for crimes. In their report the committee judiciously state that "though the intemperate cannot be justly classed with the insane, still there is the same destitution of moral principle, the same want of self-control, as is ordinarily found in the insane, and the community require the same protection from their

violence, and we believe their restoration practicable, when placed under the same course of moral and medical treatment required for the insane."

State Lunatic Asylum, New York.—From the Prison Discipline Report, we ascertain that the asylum for the insane poor of that State is to be located at Utica, on a beautiful eminence, on the New Hartford road, one mile from the city. A farm of about 120 acres has been purchased, the soil of which is light and dry, and the scenery in the neighborhood very delightful. Preparations are making for building soon, the plans of the edifice having been designed for the accommodation of about 1000 patients. In the Bloomingdale Asylum, during 1837, 254 received its benefits; 50 were cured; 12 discharged improved; 32 discharged at the request of friends; 13 died; 2 eloped; and 145 remained at the close of the year. Dr. Benjamin Odden is now the superintendent.

Diseases of the Eye.—Affections of the organs of vision demand, at all times, the most serious attention and the fullest investigation, and are much too important in their consequences to admit of being trifled with. Errors in the treatment of many other diseases may be frequently repaired by subsequent care and more appropriate applications; but a small mistake with regard to the diseases of the eye, is often irreparably injurious to its functions, and may be succeeded by the loss of sight. From regular practitioners alone, who entertain comprehensive views of pathology, can any important improvements in this department of surgery be expected. How few persons out of the profession are aware of the great danger incurred by committing the care of ocular diseases to the officious zeal of ignorant, though well-meaning private persons, or to the hap-hazard treatment of empirics, who presumptuously boast of curing all the complicated disorders of the eye, by means of their nostrums, although they are avowedly unacquainted not only with the structure, economy and morbid derangements of that delicate organ, but are also equally unskilled in the qualities of those remedies which they employ so rashly and oftentimes with the most melancholy consequences!

Treatment of Varix.—E. H., aged 25, a lady's maid, was admitted into University College Hospital June 21, under the care of Mr. Liston. About six years ago, during the time she was travelling, her left leg became frozen, and was afterwards suddenly exposed to considerable heat, by the limb being immersed in a mash-tub. In consequence of this treatment the veins of the leg became varicose, and the limb flexed at the knee-joint. This state of flexion continued for some time, when it was overcome by main force, and the limb was moved with freedom. She has had recourse to a variety of treatment under various surgeons without experiencing any relief. On her admission the veins of the leg were much enlarged, and there was a small ulcer on the inner ankle.

July 25, Mr. Liston passed eight needles under the principal varices and applied twisted sutures. The ulcer soon healed, and the veins ceased to appear enlarged.

30. Three of the needles were removed to-day; the other five on the 31st. Water-dressing applied.

August 4. The leg bandaged to-day. Went on well till the 16th, when she was discharged cured.—*London Lancet.*

Salicine in Intermittent Fever.—Dr. A. Fiorio has employed salicine in 108 cases of intermittent fever with the greatest success. The highest dose administered was twenty-four grains, and in every case, except two, the disease was immediately moderated by the remedy, and eventually cured.—*Medic. Yahrbücker.*

Medical Miscellany.—In Great Britain and Ireland there are supposed to be about twenty-five thousand practitioners.—Dr. Hamilton's discourse delivered at Auburn, which was noticed some time since in this Journal, seems to meet with considerable friction in its progress through the community. It is admired, and yet condemned. The doctor's sweeping denunciations against phrenology seem to have aroused a whole army of staunch believers in the new philosophy of mind.—Dr. Smith, in the course of a lecture in the Medical College, New York, the other day, related the extraordinary fact that occurred in his practice, of a ball entering the brain and dividing the optic nerves—yet the patient wholly recovered, with the loss of sight only. He also stated that a shaft of a gig entered the anterior part of the chest, passed through and came out on the back; but the reporter forgot to mention whether the sufferer lived or died.—In the time of Boerhaave, a kind of epidemic convulsion became rife in a female seminary at Leyden; when one had a fit, others of the young ladies followed. But this great physician soon put a stop to the disease by having every one who had convulsions punished with a red-hot scourge. Fear, therefore, proved a successful revulsant. —So many physicians, since the commencement of the rebellion in Canada, have become involved in treasonable operations against the government, that the provinces seem in a fair way of being bereft of practitioners.

To Correspondents.—So many papers of considerable length have accumulated, that, contrary to our expectation, we are compelled to defer some of them until another week.

Died,—At New York, suddenly, Dr. J. R. Peckwith, of the United States Navy. He had just arrived from Mexico.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending Dec. 1, 98. Males, 15—females, 13.
Of consumption, 2—lung fever, 4—infantile, 2—scarlet fever, 3—disease of the heart, 1—dropsy on the brain, 2—marasmus, 1—palsy, 1—typhous fever, 3—intemperance, 1—teething, 1—fits, 1—croup, 1—old age, 1—pericarditis, 1—stillborn, 2.

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF MAINE.

The Medical Lectures at Bowdoin College will commence on Monday, the 18th day of February, 1839.

Anatomy and Surgery, by Joseph Roby, M.D., of Boston.
Theory and Practice of Physic, Obstetrics, and Medical Jurisprudence, by James McKeen, M.D.
Chemistry and Materia Medica, by Parker Cleaveland, M.D.

The Anatomical Cabinet and the Library are annually increasing.
Every person becoming a member of this Institution, is required previously to present satisfactory evidence of possessing a good moral character.
The amount of fees for the lectures is $50, payable in advance. The lectures continue three months.
Degrees are conferred at the close of the Lecture Term in May, and at the following Commencement of the College in September.

P. CLEAVELAND, *Secretary.*

Brunswick, Me., October, 1838.

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ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE.

The public course of lectures in this Institution will commence on Wednesday, the 2d of January, 1839, and continue sixteen weeks. The new and extensive College edifice, which has been completed during the past summer, is situated in a central position, and in architectural character, dimensions, and internal arrangement, is admirably adapted to the purposes of medical instruction. The museum of the institution occupies a room fifty feet square, two stories high, with a gallery, and glass cases above and below. It is furnished with an extensive and choice collection of specimens in healthy and morbid anatomy, together with casts, models, plates, and magnified drawings in great variety, and every kind of preparation necessary to illustrate the departments of Anatomy and Physiology, Surgery and Obstetrics. The other departments are provided with ample means for illustration, and with all the apparatus and materials necessary to render the courses full, practical and complete. The Anatomical Theatre, which will be appropriated to all the demonstrative branches, is fifty feet square, with seats for 400 persons, arranged in a circular manner around the area for the lecturer, which is lighted by a large dome and sky-light immediately above it. The dissecting rooms, which are spacious and convenient, will be kept open during the term, under the immediate charge of the Professor of Anatomy, by whom every facility will be provided for the cultivation of practical anatomy and operative surgery.

The Chemical Laboratory and other apartments are large and commodious, and well adapted to the purposes for which they are designed. The course in Chemistry and Natural History will be illustrated by extensive and richly furnished collections in Mineralogy, Geology and Botany, and to some extent in Comparative Anatomy. In Materia Medica and Medical Jurisprudence, as well as in the other departments, it is designed to exhibit as many facts and illustrations as possible, and to render every subject, so far as is practicable, a demonstrative one.

There will be clinical instruction in Surgery and Practice every Saturday during the term, at the hospital connected with the Almshouse, where there will be opportunities of witnessing a great variety of cases and surgical operations. All operations on the poor will be performed gratuitously (if in the presence of the class) during the term.

Degrees will be conferred at the close of the term, and all the powers and privileges conferred by other medical institutions of the State, will be secured to the graduate. The requirements of candidates for graduation are the same as at other institutions.

The lectures in the different departments will be delivered as follows:

Principles and Practice of Surgery, by - - - - -	Alden March, M.D.
Theory and Practice of Medicine, by - - - - - -	David M. Reese, M.D.
Chemistry and Natural History, by - - - - - -	Ebenezer Emmons, M.D.
Anatomy and Physiology, by - - - - - -	James H. Armsby, M.D.
Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children, by -	Henry Greene, M.D.
Materia Medica and Pharmacy, by - - - - -	David M. M'Lachlan, M.D.
Medical Jurisprudence, by - - - - - -	Amos Dean, Esq.

The price of tickets to all the lectures is $65. Graduation fee, $20. Matriculation fee, $5. Dissecting fee, $5. Graduates, licentiates, regular practitioners, and students who have attended two full courses of lectures at any incorporated institution, are required to pay only the matriculation fee.

The price of boarding and lodging varies from $2,50 to $3,00 per week.

Albany, 1838. O31* J. H. ARMSBY, *Dean of the Faculty.*

DR. JACKSON'S REPORT.

A Report on the cases of Typhoid Fever, which occurred in the Massachusetts General Hospital from the opening of that institution in September, 1821, to the end of 1835. By James Jackson, M D., late Attending Physician in that hospital. Highly recommended in the American Journal of Medical Sciences, and in Dunglison's Medical Library. Published by

Nov 21—3t WHIPPLE & DAMRELL, No. 9 Cornhill.

PRIVATE MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

The subscribers are associated for the purpose of giving a complete course of medical instruction. Their pupils will have regular access to the medical and surgical practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital. They will be admitted, also, to the practice of the House of Correction, which constantly presents a large number of important cases, and whereopportunities will be afforded for acquiring a practical knowledge of compounding and dispensing medicines. They will be furnished with opportunities for the study of Practical Anatomy, not inferior to any in the country. To the pupils, particularly to those in the last year of their profesional studies, facilities will be afforded for acquiring a personal acquaintance with private medical and obstetric practice. Instruction by examinations or lectures will be given in the different branches of medical studies, during the interval between the public lectures of the University. Books, and a room with fire and lights, will be furnished to the students at the expense of the instructers.

GEORGE C. SHATTUCK,
WALTER CHANNING,
JOHN WARE,
Oct 31—eptf GEORGE W. OTIS, Jr.
WINSLOW LEWIS, Jr.

FOR SALE,

Within thirty miles of Boston, an estate now occupied by a physician, who is about to leave the place. It will be sold at cost, which is between 2500 and 3000 dollars. The practice is a valuable one, as can be satisfactorily shown to any applicant. For name and place, inquire at this office; if by mail, post paid. Nov 21—3t

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